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August-September 1954

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

JAMAICA WORKLESS TERRIFY GOVERNMENT

THE march of the unemployed scheduled to take place on Monday, July 19th under the leadership of the newly-formed Jamaica Unemployed Workers' Council was banned by the police one hour before it was due to start.

An official letter was received from the Acting-Commissioner of Police withdrawing permission. Police and soldiers were mobilised.

In spite of police intimidation the meeting which was planned to take place at the end of the march was carried through even though no publicity had been given to it. Over 1,000 persons stood uncovered in the sun from 12 noon until 6 p.m.

Four leaders of the Council were arrested—R. Simms (Chairman), G. Vassell (General Secretary), Winston Monroe (Executive Member), and R. Goode. The police

★ continued on page 5

FITTING TRIBUTE: "One the same evening I went to a dance near King's Cross. It was, I think, organised by the Caribbean Labour Congress — an organisation which does peerless work among the coloured boys who come from the West Indies seeking jobs in Britain."

(Phoebe Kwaku, in "Reynolds News".)

Guiana Justice

THE United Democratic Party has been keeping frequent public meetings. This Party, which the anti-P.P.P. forces are trying to build up, has been given many advantages denied the P.P.P. under the Emergency Orders. The P.P.P. was told by the Commissioner of Police that permission would not be given for any public political emetings.

Under an ordinance just passed by the Interim Legislative Council the collection of money from house to house or in any public place will only be permitted for charitable purposes. Charitable purpose means "any charitable, religious or philanthropic purpose". Excluded from the Bill are the trade unions and political bodies. This will go against the annual May Day Tag collection, the public collections by the P.P.P. and the collections for striking workers. This Bill came up two years' ago but was shelved due to protests from the Trade Unions and the P.P.P.

Another Bill making it unlawful to take photographs in courtrooms and in the compound of courts was passed recently. It is felt that this followed as a result of photographs taken of members of the P.P.P.

OUR STAND ON CYPRUS

AS THE British Governor of Cyprus imposed draconian restrictions on advocacy of Enosis, the Caribbean Labour Congress (London) sent a protest to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, saying:—

"West Indians protest with no uncertainty at the high-handed and unprincipled decrees against criticism of the Government in Cyprus.

"We demand the reinstatement of the freedom of the press, the freedom of assembly, and even limited freedom of speech.

"We further demand that the people of Cyprus like every colonial people should enjoy the inalienable right of self-determination."

A copy of the above protest was also sent to the Governor of Cyprus.

(See page 5 for article on Cyprus.)

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★ EDITORIAL ★

HAPPY PLAYGROUNDS

NOW you can relax. You are leaving the cold climate of North America, sailing down the Atlantic in a luxury liner, and you've got a little Fort Knox of money to draw on.

Wher are you going? — Why, of course, you are leisurely cruising to the "Playground of the Western World" — the Caribbean Riviera. In case you haven't yet caught on, that means the "Rock" (Jamaica) and the other West Indian territories.

When you arrive you will be staying at the most posh hotel in Montego Bay or North Shore. There you will mingle with people only of your own class, the very best — millionaires and the rest.

After a simply glorious fortnight, you depart, probably to another "playvround" in the Eastern World (Formosa?).

But before you go you will pick up a few knicknacks with your almighty dollars — little luxury items you will get cheaper in Jamaica than in New York or Boston.

And now wake up! For unless you're a rich Yankee tourist, this is only a dream. But it is a very real idea of what some gents have in mind as the role your land and mine should play in helping them to make big profits.

Writing in the World's Press News, Colin Turner, Directing Manager of Colin Turner (London), Ltd., gives some advice to British businessmen to sell their goods to American tourists in the West Indies, which he describes as fast becoming the playground of the Western World.

Where profits go

British businessmen would find in the American tourists a ready market for their luxury goods. Mr. Turner says that 140,000 Yankee tourists holidayed in Jamaica alone last year.

We know, however, that the profits would not go to West Indians, but to big business houses in London.

The same gentleman gives some hints on the technique of advertising to attract even the cents and shillings of the 'natives' who are "simple, childlike folk, poorly educated".

Isn't it amazing how often the imperialists describe us as "child-like", and inculcate the belief in their people that we are "child-like"?

This attitude might seem silly, but it has a purpose. For if you accept the idea that West Indians and people in colonies are "child-like", it is only a step further to accepting that we need protection.

We must be simple human beings who need "looking after", who don't feel pain and hardship so much and so can do without adequate food, clothing and shelter **and independence** until some future, always future, date.

We agree that there is 30 per cent. illiteracy in the West Indies, that hundreds of thousands of children do not get more than a year or two of schooling.

Away with them

But who are responsible? — None other than those big companies which profit from our sweat and toil, our cheap labour, our cheap natural resources — those capitalists in whose interests Whitehall maintains a military and political dictatorship over us. The same British and Yankee robbers who pose as our beneficient protectors. Now you see where the 'child-like' comes in!

These advertising experts would do well to plan an advertising campaign to get rid of British Imperialism in the West Indies.

Imagine seeing on big hoardings all over Jamaica, "Tate & Lyle, leave our sweet Isle!" and such similarly appropriate ads all over the West Indies.

But that won't happen, either.

Our 'advertising' campaigns will be like the Guianese people's struggle against imperialism, like the Jamaica unemployed workers' movement, and the steady awakening, militancy and struggle in Trinidad, St. Vincent, Barbados.

We shall win and scotch the schemes and plans of the British-American robbers.

Arthur Brown this month has . . .

A Chat with an Electrician

INTERVIEWING West Indian workers in England is an interesting job. The multitude of problems, all arising from the same source, that one hears about give some idea of the high degree of confusion that exists in the minds of West Indians and likewise in the minds of a large proportion of British workers.

Consequently, when from all this the indication emerges that some West Indians (although unfortunately not enough) are utilising the many opportunities available for cementing a common friendship with the British worker, a feeling of pride can be reflected in the minds of all progressive people.

For this reason I quote at length my interview with young Tom Lynch, a West Indian from Trinidad.

"As a West Indian working in Britain I am overwhelmed at the interest the Trade Union movement extends towards young people.

"I work in the electrical industries and belong to the Electrical Trades Union. I find my Union in the forefront of the fight for better conditions for its young members all over the British Isles.

"I have had the good fortune to attend several of the Union's youth conferences as an elected delegate of my local branch. The discussions at these conferences are very lively and of a high standard of debate.

Tom Lynch represents his branch at Union Youth Conferences

Youth's conditions

"In the discussions the delegates bring to the notice of the Executive Council the conditions and problems that face young people as a whole in the British Isles. The need for improving apprenticeship training facilities have been a serious point for discussion at many of these meetings. It is always expressed and agreed by unanimous decisions of the delegates that the apprentices in the trade must be given time off to study without loss of wages so as to relieve some of the great strain that is borne by young people who have to work during the day and attend evening classes two or three nights a week.

"The need to compel the Electrical Employers to observe the Education Act of 1944 which allows apprentices in all industries the right to attend day school without loss of wages for at least one day a week, is urgent.

"In the struggle for higher wages the young members support any demands or action the Union's Executive Council take against the Employers (who are solidly united in the Employers' Eederation) to grant increased wages to its adult and young members to offset the rising cost of living caused by the greed of the ruling class, led by the Tory Party, for maximum profits.

An appeal

"These Youth Conferences always discuss such things as General Education and urge their Executive Committee along with the rest of the Trade Union Movement in Britain to press the Government to build more schools which alone can erase the acute over-crowding in many elementary schools. The demand for sporting and cultural amenities are becoming more and more pronounced.

"The formation of Youth Clubs in the local borough is (in my view) a prerequisite to a better life and peace

"Last, but most important, is this. Our demands are flouted continuously by the Employers and their Government, thus the necessity to strengthen the Unions. In that respect I would like to appeal to my fellow colonials to join a Trade Union and take an active part in its work. In this way we can assist in laying the foundation for a full and happy life, not only for the British people, but equally for all colonial peoples."

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They Dig Their Own Graves

"But not only has the bourgeoisie forged the weapons that bring death to itself; it has also called into existence the men who are to wield these weapons — the modern working-class — the proletarians."

SO, SO long ago a German Scientist, looking older than his years, with his whitened hair and bushy beard, wrote these words in the British Museum.

Let us see who offers the best proof of this assertion. Over the past month or so we have these (unwitting perhaps!) eminent exponents:

1. Mr. N. M. Jensen.
2. Mr. J. K. Michie.
3. Sir Robert Barlow.

Maybe these names have not yet become household words in the West Indies, but if these men's plots fructify, it will not be long before they are as hated as any Bookers of Guiana — and you know how they have dug their own grave and served as the symbol against which every Guianese with gumption has united!

The three gentlemen above represent — from their managerial posts in Tunnel Portland Cement Company, Steel Brothers and Company, Limited, Metal Box Co - pany, Limited — untold millions of pounds sterling invested in our lands, which from last year's toll, has brought in a profit of nearly Four Million Pounds or W.I. $20,000,000.

Tunnel Portland Cement is a near monopoly controlling cement production in Britain, Ireland, Egypt and the Sudan, the U.S.A., Burma, Cyprus, Kenya, Uganda and Jamaica.

Trading profit here is up to £1,523,050 for this year —some has gone to reserves and this Company has admitted spending over £4,000,000 over the last six years in what they call "expansion".

Steele Brothers and Company, Limited have only so far engulfed the Middle East, East Africa and Canada, but through a network of subsidiaries, control companies in India, Burma, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Japan, Siam, Ceylon and very naively, as the "Times" (1.7.54) puts it, quoting Mr. Michie on Guiana:

"We operate here as managing agents of British Guiana Timbers, Ltd., in which concern, we along with Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Co., Ltd., are associated as shareholders with the Colonial Development Corporation . . ."

—Profits here were a mere £519.683 or just over two and a half million West Indian Dollars!

Metal Box Company Limited. Their group sales rushed past £43.000,000 to a new record. The figure is so high, if it were put into West Indian Dollars it would become so unreal, no native could really appreciate the figure in terms of understandable currency.

India, Malaya, South Africa, Pakistan, New Zealand and Jamaica come in their group — and they're plotting for more.

After all bills and liabilities, dignified Sir Robert could declare £1,730,892 as NET PROFIT — and to think that I heard a rather disconsolate but attractive Jamaican girl say recently on a filthy day of continuous rain as she queued for a crowded 'bus, "Tcha man! Jamaica no gud, nuthin dere fe weh."

American Negroes Reject Haile Selassie

IMPERIALISM has struck another foul blow, well below the belt, at all the pride of the West Indian Negro.

Look at the pathetic figure of the 'Lion of Judah' Haile Selassie, stage attired in a British-

By Billy Strachan

styled Field Marshal uniform, wilting under the inquisitive TV arc lights in Washington. Listen to the shameful "NO!" he utters to a Negro delegation when asked to identify himself and Abyssinians as Negroes ! ! !

This I know will give rise to real disappointment to scores of thousands of some of the most down-trodden but most promising folk, especially in JAMAICA, who are rearing to go to throw out our foreign occupation forces.

FLASHBACK: It was Geneva 1935, that Haile Selassie stood in tears, his people rapiered by Fascist Italy, and pleaded for support from Britain, France, the LEAGUE OF NATIONS. The Yankees had stood aloof from this world forum for Peace . . . only one voice rallied to the side of our stricken people, LITVINOV, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Litvinov admitted all the internal shortcomings of Ethiopian democracy, but warned the world, that he, no nation, above all the League could stand idly by and see blatantly violated

> "their inalienable right to integrity and independence."

Shades of Cyprus?

Hot Air

I don't know, I make no apologies for this heavy, even if historically true, contribution this month. How would you feel if you see your beloved countrymen criminally uninformed on account of a castrated Press.

Only this could have led to that meeting in the historic Ward Theatre, Kingston, Jamaica, urging an open invitation to this misleading figure-head of all coloured people! And the Manley talking-shop pumped further hot air to this unfortunate wild goose chase.

Arriving in Washington, May 26th, as a guest of President Eisenhower, to be lavishly entertained, could only have conjured up the most brutal memories. Did not the Press report that he had to be excused early and fled by a side door,

Shortly after his coronation, fat fascist Mussolini carried out the same technique in Rome, loading this perhaps then innocent, King with doubtful honours, even sponsoring Abyssinia's admission to the League of Nations 1934, against British opposition. THEN, the Judas' blow, a year later while the hoodlums stood by and laughed . . . .

Maybe the purist, say one of the career-lawyer-politicians, might try to score here and tell us that the impotent League did impose their economic sanctions; and so they did! But how far did the most powerful states, Britain and France implement even this limited action?

No, in the maniacal realm of power politics, any aggressor was to be appeased in the then late 'thirties in an attempt to maintain a futile united front against the first working-class Republic, Soviet Russia.

Shame

So Abyssinia bled unrestrained until the successful defeat of Fascism (1945) in which many coloured people shared. A little nation breathed again, like so many others wanted to . . . say, Korea? This time the warmad Yanks moved (1950) and for the record, I from a coloured colonial race must quote with shame, Haile Selassie, the Lion of Judah, descendant of the King of Kings, on May 28th, 1954:

> "she (Ethiopia) was the only state in the Near East and in the Middle East to send troops to Korea." — against the Koreans.

All for 100 million dollars, not inappropriately blood stained. Maybe on these grounds the puppet politicians of the Carter clique in Guiana, so dispirited by the P.P.P. leadership under Jagan would also attempt any cheap stunt to rejuvenate their despised campaign in support of imperialism by inviting this King to the land of many rivers.

American Negroes, perhaps even more oppressed than West Indians (if that is possible?) spoke up with more pride when an overwhelming majority at a recent meeting in Harlem, New York, refused to approve an official invitation.

It has been a sad and bitter lesson, but we have learned so much so quickly, this added chapter that well illustrates the class structure with sharp definition, will yet be learnt, and You and I, the wiser.

Next month I will try to do better and probably bring a cheer instead — who knows, Premier Cheddi Jagan might even be free amidst his appreciative adoring Guianese!

Poland Celebrates

A LARGE and representative gathering attended the commemoration of the first ten years of People's Poland which was held at the Cambridge Theatre recently.

The celebrations took the form of music, Polish folk songs and dances and some well received renditions from the great Polish pianist Lydia Grychtolowina.

Addressing the gathering Mrs. D. N. Pritt spoke on the desire for friendship and understanding which the People of Poland want.

One of the visiting guests, a teacher, in a moving address spoke of the tortures she and many of her people had suffered at the hands of the Germans, and remarked: "Never again should Germany be re-armed to kill innocent people and children. Instead they should be taught to live in peace with all people."

Some beautiful songs were sung by Martin Lawrence and Ewan McColl and the audience gave their appreciation in their many minutes of applause.

Earlier in the proceedings a few Polish Fascists tried to upset the audience by telling the police that a time bomb had been placed in the theatre. The place was searched while the audience rightly remained in their seats. No bomb was discovered. Notwithstanding this incident, the audience settled down to an enjoyable programme.

BOOK WORLD

The System Works

"A PEOPLE REBORN" (published by Lawrence and Wishart, price 2/6d.), is the title of the record of a visit paid in December, 1953, to the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of Northern Ossetia by eleven Britishers, among them the editor, Andrew Rothstein, noted authority on the Soviet Union.

They describe themselves as "active voluntary workers for British-Soviet friendship", and are officers of Soviet friendship societies in England, Wales and Scotland.

Ossetia is a little country on the northern slopes of the Caucasus, about 3,500 square miles (twice the size of Trinidad but smaller than Jamaica), with a population about the same as British Guiana, and the history of its people goes back to the first centuries A.D.

Since the sixteenth century they have been associated with Russia; first, as an ally, but after the 1780s as a satellite. Russia's hegemony brought with it an end to the slave trade, but inevitably perhaps suppression of national culture and in alliance with the native landlords, exploitation of the peasantry.

This era closed in 1917, and "A PEOPLE REBORN" is first of all an account of their achievement from the late 1920s when Ossetia underwent a process of decolonialisation, culminating in the grant of autonomy under the Stalin Constitution of 1936, to the present day; and secondly, the testimony of the visitors that the system WORKS.

★

As only two of the delegates spoke Russian and none apparently had previously visited Ossetia their witness is based largely on a comparison of the statistics before and after the event. But whatever the standard applied, the interpretation is one of steady improvement.

If, for example, one accepts the Rousseau criterion (and its validity for backward areas is hardly contested) that the government is best under which the citizens increase and multiply the most, one cannot help being convinced by the fact that the percentage increase in population for the twenty-six years, 1913-1939 (130,000/330,000) not merely equals but slightly exceeds that for the preceding eighty-four years of Tsarist rule (or was it tutelage), 1828 to 1913, when the population crept from 40,000 to 130,000.

Nor is this the main argument. The standard of living has risen tremendously. Peasants no longer sell their crops cheap to rich farmers, who having the means of transport take it to the market and sell for a song. Collective farming has enabled mechanization to be carried through and rotation of crops to become the accepted practice.

Women, who in pre-Soviet times could not sit down in the presence of men and contented themselves with their husband's 'left-overs', are now helping to build their new society, serving on the governing bodies of the Republic and enjoying the respect of their menfolk.

Just as impressive to the West Indian are the provisions for education. While the whole of the British West Indies, with a population ten times as large, makes do with only one University College, Ossetia boasts five institutes of University standard. Compared with Britain the rsult is startling. Whereas Ossetia has one university student to 80 of the population, the percentage for Britain is one to 500.

The account is equally impressive of all aspects of Ossetian life, both by comparison with its past condition and by comparison with that of other countries still under the "stewardship" of metropolitan countries:

From 1923 to 1948, 2,000 books were published in 10 million copies in Ossetia, while in the last year British Colonial Government in the West Indies have tried to ban as many. Nevertheless, these travellers' tales, buttressed with facts and interspersed with lively comments, show that in this spot of the world the social revolution has brought to a forgotten people a new and abundant life.

by "Critic"

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Poisoning Evil

IT IS most heartening to see this poisoning evil, the colour bar, which has been the destruction of many decent Colonials living in Britain, and other parts of the world, so rightly brought to light, in a pamphlet by Henry Gunter, "A MAN'S A MAN" (published by Birmingham Communist Party, 6d.). The author is a West Indian living in Birmingham, where he is Secretary of the Afro-West Indian Society and also a member of the Birmingham Trades Council.

His description of the 9,000 Coloured people living in Birmingham who have come either to gain a living, or pursue their studies, and are faced with the situation of the refusal of accommodation in houses, hotels, and social activities, because of colour prejudice, is something of the most vile and unchristian principles which, I am sure, all decent-minded Britons will denounce.

The author's dealing with the city transport department (p.16), when the colour question had shown itself, and was attacked by the national newspapers, can be summed up as very good in theory, and in practice.

To do a job properly, one should be non-sentimental, and with an open mind to criticise. But even the most diehard, after reading "A Man's a Man", if he has a conscience and believes in Christianity and the brotherhood of man, will find himself agreeing with the pamphlet, and may even come out to denounce the colour bar.

Ralph Bennett

Why Have You Come to Britain?

(by permission of *Irish Democrat*)

SOONER or later every West Indian here is asked a certain question. It is put in polite form sometimes but always it seems to irritate . . . It should do more than irritate though, it should stimulate us to think. Why did you come here? That is the question.

Of the thousands who arrive every few months no more than a few dozen are bona-fide full time students. West Indians come to England looking for work. After years of British rule we cannot, in our native lands, earn enough money to meet the most elementary needs of life.

Randolph RAWLINS gives some answers to this question and shows the way forward.

It is nothing new for West Indians to migrate. Poverty and the need have sent Jamaicans to Panama, Cuba, Haiti and the U.S.A.

Mass emigration to Britain began with recruitment of R.A.F. personnel. Many returned, and as the post war distress struck an impoverished people, the great trek started. The Steamship lines reaped a harvest and increased fares merrily.

In England, the West Indian faces not only the cold treatment meted out to foreigners, but also prejudice. because of his colour. He is, so to speak, that twin evil—a coloured foreigner. Prejudice affects him in employment, in housing, and finally restricts his social life.

CLASSIFIED ADS

It is the former white-collar worker who is most affected by job discrimination. Other than certain departments in the Civil Service, there are no avenues open to him, and the Civil Service is never a migrant's job since most of its benefits presuppose living out one's life in England. As a rule no store, firm, office or library will hire him. He knows better than to make use of the classified advertisements.

For the unskilled worker the situation is equally grim. A job for him means in effect either J. Lyons, a hospital or the British Railways.

No statistical survey can evaluate the psychological assaults on coloured people, the hostility of minor clerks at some of the Employment Exchanges. The openly insulting attitude of some of the National Assistance Board interviewers, the bland lies heard at a personnel office when the Board outside loudly proclaims vacancies.

In housing we face a refreshingly simple picture. In time the coloured foreigner learns that there are certain areas where he is absolutely barred from accommodation. The borough of Westminster for example, where through a Clause in the Ground Laws, discrimination has acquired legal status.

Within the little coloured settlements proper landlords charge a colour tax ranging between ten shillings and one pound, and it is common-place on obtaining a room to find that your predecessor, of white, had paid a few bob less.

EDUCATION

What can we do about all this? We will have to learn to rouse working-class militancy, to stimulate unity and lastly, to put our case before the British working-class. It is by doing these things that we can contribute to change conditions in the West Indies so as to make job hunting treks unnecessary. And that is the nature of the education that our "Mothercountry" can bestow.

In a talk to the Caribbean Labour Congress, Julius Jacobs of the formes London Trades Council gave us an indication of the way we should set about gaining these aims.

West Indians are good furniture workers and they join the Union, he says, are welcome and have in cases become Union officers. But not enough. Many more have to come forward in every calling. We must not only pay Union dues but attend meetings and run for Offices. Especially where Union leadership is progressive our advances will be welcome. So, full participation in Union activities must be one of our aims.

Further, there is need to lay our case directly to the Union, the British working class. In general, we have to outline the reason for our presence here, that is to say, the economic conditions in the B.W.I., and point out the fact that we face a common enemy—the British capitalists.

Antagonism between the British worker and the Colonial worker is fostered by the Capitalist Press.

As an individual in a job, as a speaker to a Union branch, as a critic of the one-sided sensational Sunday journalism, any West Indian can fulfil at least one of these roles. Working as a team within one of the lodging houses. Colonials have been able to gain a rent reduction. Remember that the landlord always fears two things. The Rent Tribunal and unified action.

END IT

Finally, we need formal organisation. The British Council will sponsor tours to Stratford-on-Avon for Shakespearean scholars, it will not intervene in order to obtain the rights for a victimised Railwaymen.

It is here that the importance of the Caribbean Labour Congress becomes apparent. Join now. Read the "Caribbean News", pass it on. Send news of events at home. of efforts to achieve our aims here.

This is the only way in which we can help to make our country livable in, and stop once and for all these endless voyagings here and there over the world looking for work.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

- ★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
- ★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
- ★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
- ★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of .....s. .....d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

The High Cost of Housing

From Our Merseyside Reporter

A GREAT deal of activity is taking place on Merseyside among the colonial residents. For a considerable length of time they have been forming various organisations to take an active part in the struggle of the Colonial Peoples.

One of the most progressive groups, The Mersey West Indian Society, now intends to approach the local council with a view to Corporation houses for the colonials. In the Society's opinion the number of houses allocated is inadequate when compared with the number that is necessary to bridge the gap on the high cost of rooms, which absorbs a large portion of their income, thus lowering their standard of living.

Constantine

It was announced quite recently that it is the intention of the Stanley House Community Centre to invite Mr. L. Constantine, the famous West Indian Cricketer, to speak to an audience before be embarks for his native land.

Mr. Wynter, the warden of Stanley House, says that he feels quite confident that Mr. Constantine will accept the invitation.

Three articles from Mr. Constantine's book "Colour Bar" have recently been published in a daily newspaper

BY THE WAY

THE British Government of Barbados has approved the expenditure of $34,000 for the building of a police training station in Barbados.

This unit is to provide for the 'red-seamed' flat-foots in the Leeward and Windward.

Let us note this, in conjunction with what Sir Charles Jeffries states in his recent book 'The Colonial Police".

Referring to the official Commonwealth Review hand-out dated July 9th, 1954, we quote:—

". . . that while the Colonial police forces are now officially constituted as civilian bodies, they have certain military characteristics differentiating them from the U.K. forces, and that they differ also in that the police of each territory are an organ, of the central government and are not, as in the United Kingdom, split up into separate units under local authorities."

The Truth About Cyprus

THE British Govrnment, without consulting our people, declared that Cyprus will be the centre of the Middle East Command and a Constitution much worse than the two previous ones will be enforced upon our island. This Constitution provides a majority of officials nominated by the Governor. As it was expected, the whole Greek people of Cyprus who in 1950, in a plebiscite arranged by the Archbishop voted 96 per cent. for Union with Greece, rejected at once this Constitution and are refusing this and any other, even self-Government.

By George Pefkos
Editor of *Vema*

The British Government forced a monstrous law suppressing every vestige of civil liberties in Cyprus.

Newspapers which publish anything for Union with Greece will be suppressed for three years and their Editors imprisoned for five years. All political parties which support Union with Greece will be outlawed and their leaders will be sent to five years' imprisonment and their ordinary members for two years.

The traditional slogan of the Cypriot people "ENOSIS", that is Union with Greece, is outlawed and anyone who dares to say it will be sent to prison even if he says the slogan in his own house. British newspapers publishing anything sympathetic to the Union of Cyprus with Greece are prohibited to circulate in the island.

But whatever suppressing measures the British Government can take, there is no power in the world which can destroy the burning national desire of our people for national independence because the Greekness of Cyprus goes back five thousand years ago.

Many conquerors tried to destroy the national character of our people but none had succeeded, and it can be taken for granted that the British imperialists also will never succeed in this shameful effort.

CONSTITUTION TRICKS

Cyprus has been under British occupation since 1878. Four years' later, a pseudo-Constitution was granted whereby nine Greek members were elected, six officials nominated by the Government under the chairmanship of the Governor who had all the time the "Veto" and the executive power in his hands.

After a tremendous campaign for "ENOSIS" in 1927 the Constitution was altered slightly, but with effective control still very much on the side of the Governor.

In 1931 the British Government forced through a Taxation Bill against the majority vote of the Assembly. This produced such a reaction by the people that White hall swept away the Constitution, and since then Cyprus has been ruled by the Governor as the sole Dictator.

Cypriots demonstrating for Enosis—union with Greece

In 1945 the whole Trade Union leadership of our country was put in jail for propagating the class struggle. In March of the same year, peaceful peasants were shot dead and many wounded for demonstrating for Union with Greece.

In 1948, the elected Mayor of Limmassol and his Council were sentenced to jail for renaming one of their streets. In the same year, when the National struggle of our people was sharpened the British Government offered a new Constitution to the people of Cyprus whereby the majority of the Consultative Assembly would be elected by the people, but again the executive power was left in the hands of the British Government.

Let me give you a picture of the economic conditions of our island.

BENEFITS

In order to have the "great honour" of belonging to the British Empire, the Cypriots, for many years, paid a tax of £92,000 per annum into the British Treasury. The total sum paid in this way comes to about £4,500,000.

If it is reckoned that about £2,000,000 returned to Cyprus as "aid", what is left with a low interest is about £20,000,000. What could Cyprus not have done had it had this money in its own hands!

According to the official report of 1953, Cyprus has paid a total sum of £6,802,000 to the "Joint Colonial Fund". This sum, which is in cash, is not in the hands of the British government of Cyprus but in the hands of the metropolitan government which uses it as it desires. Also a sum of £7,418,133 of Cypriot money is invested on loans to other colonies and dominions. This money is loaned for 2 to 2½ per cent., but when Cyprus needs a loan the British financiers ask for 5 per cent. interest and 2 per cent. charges.

Again, according to the same report of 1953, Cyprus had a surplus of £3,219,425 in the "Colonial Development Fund". This "Colonial Development Fund" was founded in April 1946 and every year since a sum has been transferred from the Cyprus budget to this fund. If the three sums given above are added together they total £17,439,558 of Cypriot money. But this money is not in Cyprus.

Cyprus is being speedily transformed into the biggest military base in the Middle East. The British H.Q. of the Middle East is being transferred to Cyprus. Great stretches of land have been already confiscated for military works. And it is said that when these works are completed more than 80,000 British troops with their families will be transferred to Cyprus.

MISERY

What will be the economic consequences of this for Cyprus? The cost of living has already risen to 131.2 per cent. even during the summer months when normally a slight fall is noted. The working people are unable to live. They cannot buy basic foodstuffs because of high prices.

Rents eat up 30 to 40 per cent. of wages and salaries and thousands of families live in huts, stables and caves in the most wretched conditions. With the coming of tens of thousands of soldiers and their families, the cost of living will rise to amazing heights.

And if today, thousands of working-class families are wretched and suffer deprivations, with the new rise in the cost of living and the inflation which will be created, they will suffer even more terribly. These are but a few of the "economic benefits" which Cyprus derives from being part of the British Empire.

Civil Rights at Stake

THE steady growth of the progressive political and Labour movements in Jamaica has resulted in an intensification of the government's smear campaign aimed at destroying what little is left of the People's civil rights.

Publications that are obtainable throughout Britain are banned and severe penalties are imposed on the offenders. Recently eight persons in Kingston have been prosecuted under the Undesirable Publications Act, including Rolly Simms, former Vice-President of the C.L.C. (London Branch).

The government has also announced as its official policy that it will not deal with the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union and other unions affiliated with the Jamaican Federation of Trade Unions. They have advised the Sugar Manufacturers' Association and other private employers to do likewise.

Only Alternative

This policy has meant that these unions being barred from the ballot in polls are forced to resort to strike action to prove to the employers that they represent the workers and force them to bargain. The eight weeks' old strike at Appleton and Raheen Estates in St. Elizabeth and at the four cane farms in Western Hanover were the immediate results of this policy.

In St. Elizabeth, main scene of the strike, 28 members of the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union were prosecuted while pursuing normal trade union procedure. A fine of £1 each for illegal picketing was levelled against 19 members of the S.A.W.U. For disorderly conduct five were fined £4 each and for breach of public order another member was fined £7. 7. 0. Three workers who joined the Union were evicted from estate houses.

JAMAICA WORKLESS

from page 1

refused bail until the public meeting was ended for fear that they would attend.

The panic shown by the ruling class was due to the wave of support that the Unemployed Council has been receiving. Permission to march was first granted because they thought the march would be a flop. When its true strength was glimpsed they hastily revoked permission. At a protest meeting held at Coronation market the following day over 5,000 gathered to support the Council despite a statement from Bustamante that he would be banning the Council's meetings.

New forms of protest are being planned to carry on the fight for the just demands of the unemployed for "Work or Unemployment Pay". The unemployed are demanding that the Government either provide work for them or pay unemployment compensation of 35/- a week.

'New Imperialism'

60,000 yards of cloth were shipped from Jamaica to the Calico Printers' Association in Britain. This is the first of a series that will be made. 500,000 yards of rough cloth has been ordered from the local mill. In England the Calico Printers' Association will finish off this cloth and sell it with the 'prestige' of 'genuine Lancashire cloth'. This is 'new type imperialism' where the cheap colonial labour makes half the article and it is finished off in the metropolitan country.

Join the Fun

A reader has suggested that it would be a good idea to get slogans, ditties and rhymes to popularise "Caribbean News". He has submitted this one:

Whether the weather be foul
Or whether the weather be fine,
"Caribbean News" will show you
How to make your life sublime.

We therefore invite readers to send us theirs, but please make them short, preferably two or three lines.

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CENTRAL BOOKS LTD
2 Parton Street, W.C.1.

Our Boys Showed Their Qualities in Empire Games

writes Tom Lynch

THE British Empire and Commonwealth Games held in Vancouver lasted nine days and ended August 7th. Once again the West Indies, represented by athletes from Trinidad, Jamaica, Barbados and British Guiana, has shown the sports world its mighty athletic ability. On the final drawing, had these territories been taken as a whole and not separately, the West Indies would have been placed fifth in the table with 98 points

The Games had the biggest entry so far, as there were 800 entries from 25 different countries.

In the track events our athletes showed superb stamina. Because of the lack of team-work, as there were at times too few participants for some events as compared with other countries, they gained for their individual islands victories that were glorious achievements.

TRACK

In the 100 yards L. LIANG (Jamaica), R. AGOSTINI (Trinidad), A. More (Jamaica), A. Bates (Trinidad), all took part in the heats, with R. Agostini reaching the finals and going on to win the 100 yards in Games' record timing.

R. Horsham and F. Hall (Jamaica) joined the four above-mentioned competitors in the 220 yards and again R. Agostini was the only one to reach the semi-final, but he did not qualify for the final. In the 440 yards J. Rogerts (B.G.), gained fifth place in the final with a time of 48.5 secs. The race was won by K. Gosper (Australia) in 47.2 secs.

Jamaica romped home in the 220 yards hurdles with K. Gardner to gain its first Gold Medal and so show the way to the rest of the islands' teams which had not gained any victories as yet.

On went Jamaica, but not so successfully, for in the 4 x 110 yards relay she was only able to gain 6th place, and again in the 4 x 440 yards relay was 6th with a time of 3 mins. 19 secs. The race was won by England in 3 min. 11.2 secs.

WEIGHTS

Trinidad kept the scale balanced in the weight lifting as R. Wilkes won the 145 division with a total of 690 lbs., a Games' record. His nearest rival, J. Sylvian (Canada) totalled 655 lbs.

In the Middle-Heavyweight division L. Kilgour was second with a total of 865 lbs. He was beaten by K. Daly of Canada.

Lifts were K. DALY—Press 275, Snatch 275, Jerk 330; L. KILGOUR—Press 275, Snatch 260, Jerk 330.

In the Lightweight division G. Nicholls (Barbados) was second with a total of 760 lbs., beaten by V. Berberis (Australia), total 765 lbs.

In the swimming events B. Roper (Jamaica) was a keen opponent. He swam his way to the final in the 110 yards free-style, timing 60.2 secs. Roper swam in three heats in the 220 yards breast stroke, but failed to qualify for final.

Trinidad finished with two Gold and two Silver, Jamaica one Gold, British Guiana one Bronze and Barbados one Silver medal.

Caribbean News Sportsman

of the month

In Britain R. Thompson, a young Trinidadian, running in the Orwell Works' annual sports, in Britain, captured five awards. His main victories being in the 100 and 440 yards. Keep up the good works!

WEDDING BELLS

The marriage took place on Saturday, 12th June, of Miss Doris Gibbs of St. James', Jamaica, to Mr. Osborne Williams of Trelawney, Jamaica.

The ceremony was performed at Islington Town Hall. A reception was then held at their home, 32, Hamilton Park, N.5, and was well attended by many friends and well-wishers of this lovely couple.

The proceedings were enlivened by the able and well-known J. C. McNish of Trinidad, who acted as master of ceremonies.

Is Business Good?

MORE profits up: Mr. P. A. Ashmead-Bartlett, M.C., A.C.G.I., Chairman of Premier Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., very modestly states that with a rise in nett profits by £8,907 (over forty thousand dollars) up to £64,666, results can be regarded as "satisfactory".

For whom?

The Chairman complains of a tax provision of £30,000 but before that, he tucks away £49,728 for what the accountants call 'depreciation and amortization'.

Well, the accountants are only one step removed from the lawyers, so heaven help us!

In this intentionally complex bit of business manoeuvering, we have the National Mining Corporation Limited and the Trinidad Leaseholds Limited, associated either as agents, vendors or leasees.

We on this side could well emulate some of the unity in action by the employers, 'eh Fyzabad or Mayaro? Maybe the oilfield workers will divide next year's profits amongst themselves!

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POLAND—WHAT IS THE TRUTH?
Meeting, Film Show and Social
Wednesday, 15th. September
7-30 p.m.—refreshments from 6-30
CONWAY HALL, Red Lion Square
Speakers: **Gordon Schaffer and delegates just returned**
Chairman: **Bill Ellerby**
Film: "WARSAW LIVES AGAIN"
Tickets 6d. from British-Polish Friendship Society, 81 Portland Place, W.I. (LAN 6573)

First Dance of the Season
Saturday, 11th. September
ROYAL HOTEL
Woburn Place. Russell Square Tube
GINGER JOHNSON
T.V. and Recording Star, and his Afro-Cuban & Latin American Band
playing 7-30 till midnight—no break
Ladies 3/- **Bar**
Gentlemen 5/- **Buffet**
Organised by Caribbean Labour Congress

Mention Caribbean News to advertisers!

Who Supports Racial Discrimination?
Hear
Colin Jones (Vice-Pres., League of Coloured Peoples)
Desmond Greaves, (Editor, Irish Democrat)
give the ANSWER
Friday, 3rd. September, 7-30 p.m.
Co-op Hall, 200 Cambridge Rd, Kilburn, N.W.6
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
George Pefkos, (Editor of Vema)
Julian Compton, (Pres., League of Coloured Peoples)
will speak on
COLOUR BAR & COLONIALISM
Thursday, 16th. September, 7-30 p.m.
3, Robert Street, N.W.1
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
and, to cap it all
Saturday **OCTOBER** **9**
Anniversary of withdrawal of B.G. Constitution
Two Big Sessions
Why the Colour Bar?
Can we destroy Racial Discrimination?
Authoritative Quiz Panel includes
John Burns, (President, Fire Brigades Union)· a Member of Parliament, leading West Indian, Irish and Cypriot speakers
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Published by R. Chandisingh, 30, Cambridge St., S.W.1.
X-Press Print, 397 Harrow Road, W.9.